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82D CONGRESS, 1st Session } SENATE { REPORT No. 789

PROVIDING RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR THE CHIEF OF THE DENTAL DIVISION OF THE BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

SEPTEMBER 20 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 19), 1951.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. HUNT, from the Committee on Armed Services, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 4205]

The Committee on Armed Services, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4205) to provide retirement benefits for the Chief of the Dental Division of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

This bill would give to the Chief of the Dental Division of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery of the Navy Department the pay and allowances of a rear admiral of the upper half and the retirement benefits now or hereafter provided for officers who have served as bureau chiefs within the Navy Department.

EXPLANATION OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is achieved by an amendment to section 3 of the act of September 28, 1945 (59 Stat. 666). That act provides that an officer of the Dental Corps of the Navy in the grade of rear admiral shall be detailed as Chief of the Dental Division, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. The officer so detailed does not, however, necessarily become a rear admiral of the upper half during the period of his detail as Chief of the Dental Division.

The bill would clarify this situation by providing that the officer filling this very important post should receive the pay and allowances provided by law for rear admirals of the upper half. It would also

provide that such officer be entitled in all respects to the privileges of retirement and retired pay as now accrues by law for chiefs of bureaus of the Navy Department, who may be retired in the highest grade held after 2½ years or more of service as a bureau chief.

COMPARISON WITH ARMY AND AIR FORCE

The corresponding officers in the Army and the Air Force hold the rank of major general which is comparative to that of rear admiral, upper half. They draw the pay and allowances of that rank and retire with the benefits accruing therefrom. This bill would, therefore, place the Chief of the Dental Division of the Navy in a status comparable to that in the other two military departments.

COST

The committee is of the opinion that this bill would result in no increased cost to the Government inasmuch as the officer now occupying the position of Chief of the Dental Division, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery is a rear admiral of the upper half and therefore is entitled to all of the benefits which would accrue from this legislation. The committee cannot conceive of circumstances under which an officer of lower rank would be nominated for this very important position, the counterpart of which in both the other services is filled by a major general.

It is of special significance to note that the action recommended in this bill conforms to the practice now in effect in the Navy Department through administrative regulation, and is the same as that prescribed by law for the Army.

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